

This reference handout explains some particularly challenging motions/scenarios that come before the House of Delegates (HOD).

Parliamentary Pointers

- 1) Reference Committee Recommended Amendments
- 2) Reference Committee Recommended “Not Adopt”:
 - Example A – a Resolution*
 - Example B – a Committee Report “Back”*

PARLIAMENTARY POINTER 1

Procedure 12, Reference Committee Reports

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4. *The reference committee is reporting on a resolution or report which it wishes to amend by addition, deletion, alteration or substitution. In order to permit the normal procedures for parliamentary handling, **the matter which is placed before the House for discussion is the amended version as presented by the reference committee together with the recommendation for its adoption.** It is then in order for the House to apply to this reference committee version amendments of the first and second order in the usual fashion. Such procedure is clear and orderly and does not preclude the possibility that someone may wish to restore the matter to its original unamended form. This may be accomplished quite simply since it may be moved to amend the reference committee version by restoring the original language.*

MMS Procedure of HOD, pg.8. www.massmed.org/policies

Per Procedure 12 of the *Procedures of the HOD*, when the reference committee has recommended **amendments**, the reference committee's proposal is the *main motion*; meaning, the matter placed before the House.

EXAMPLE

The reference committee has proposed an amendment:

Ref Com Report is the main motion:

That we paint the house ~~red~~ pink.

A delegate extracts this item from the reference committee report and proposes a one-word change. This is considered a first-order amendment (or ‘primary’), because, remember, the *reference committee’s amended wording* is the main motion — the matter before the House.

Extracted and Delegate Proposes a First Order (Primary) Amendment:

That we paint the house ~~red~~ ~~pink~~ orange.

A delegate can propose a second-order amendment. That amendment must apply to the text already proposed for amendment; so amend the *color* only.

In another scenario, a delegate might make made a motion to “restore the original.”

What does that mean?

Procedure 12, Reference Committee Reports

...

4. ...*Such procedure is clear and orderly and does not preclude the possibility that someone may wish to restore the matter to its original unamended form.*

This may be accomplished quite simply since it may be moved to amend the reference committee version by restoring the original language.

MMS Procedure of HOD, pg.8. www.massmed.org/policies

A delegate may make a motion to ***amend the reference committee version by restoring the original language.*** This is considered a *first-order* amendment.

Note: if an amendment is *already* pending (a delegate has already proposed an amendment to the reference committee version) it is not germane — in most cases — to move the original at that point in time because the current/pending amendment usually does not apply to the *entire* item of business as the original would. So the pending amendment would usually have to be processed first, and then the original may be moved.

Your speakers will explain this to the House so delegates understand their options.

PARLIAMENTARY POINTER 2**EXAMPLE A:****A Resolution
Ref Com Recommends Not Adopt:**

That we buy cookies daily.

When the reference committee has recommended “Not Adopt” for this resolution and the item is extracted from the reference com report, the *original* resolution resolves (or report recommendations) from the *Delegates’ Handbook* is the main motion — the matter that is before the House. The original language is what you’ll be talking about.

The reference committee has recommended “Not Adopt” for the resolution. It was extracted.

Extracted Motion on the Floor is the Resolution

That we buy cookies daily.

How do I Vote?

If you are in favor of buying cookies daily, vote “in favor” of the resolution. If you are opposed to buying cookies daily, vote “opposed” to the resolution.

EXAMPLE B:

Where things get a bit more complicated is in the case of an MMS **committee report** where the MMS committee is **reporting back** on a resolution from a previous meeting that was referred for a report “back.” An MMS committee was assigned the item to review further and to make a recommendation on whether to adopt, not adopt, etc., that resolution. In their report to the HOD in the Delegates’ Handbook the MMS committee recommended that it **be not adopted.**”

Let’s use the Committee on Info Tech, the ‘CIT,’ as a *generic* example.

The CIT submitted a report which recommends that original resolution I-19 XYZ be **not adopted.**

A Report “Back” from Committee on Info Tech

“That the MMS not adopt Resolution I-19 XYZ which reads as follows:”

That the MMS XYZ...

The reference committee — based on testimony — agrees, and recommends “Adopt.” (Adopt the CIT’s report recommendation.)

“IF that CIT report was extracted, in *THIS* case, what is before the House is the CIT’s report recommendation to Not Adopt the original resolution. Why? Because the CIT’s report, as presented in the Delegates’ Handbook, is the main motion — the matter that is before the House.

Extracted: Motion on the Floor is the CIT’S Report Recommendation

“That the MMS not adopt Resolution I -19 XYZ which reads as follows:”

That the MMS XYZ...

How do I Vote?

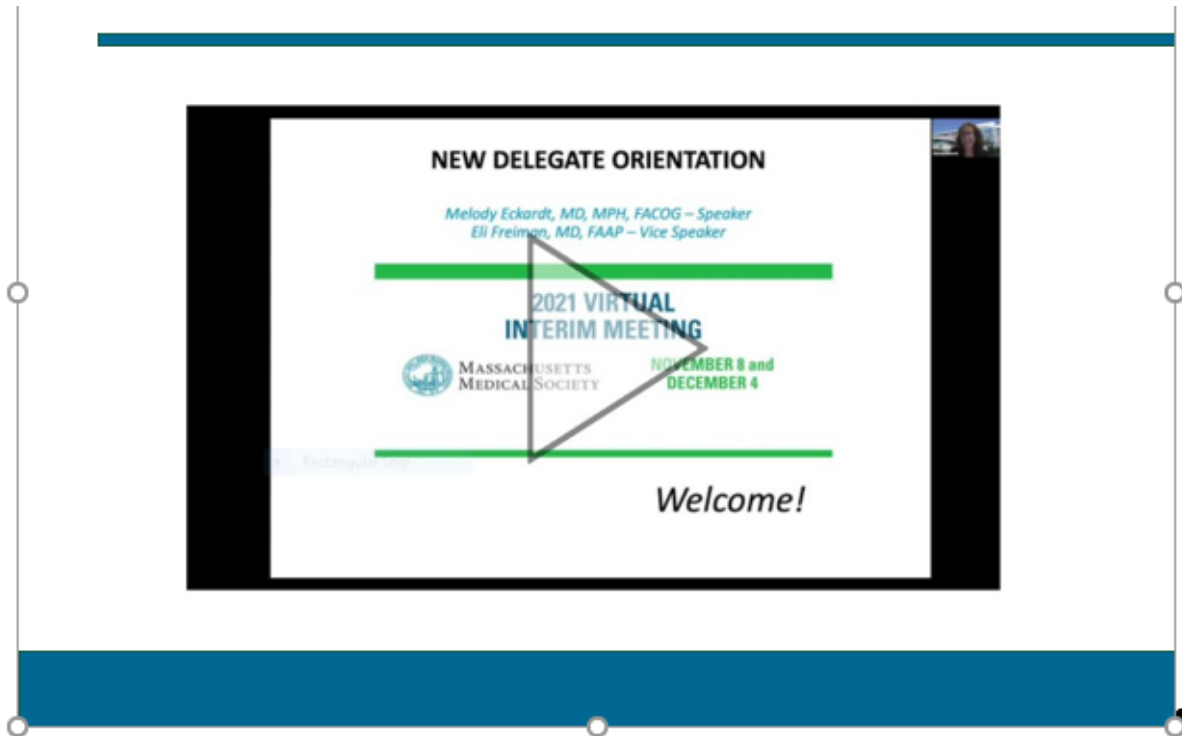
The visual below explains how to vote on the CIT Report:

The CIT Report is Extracted

REF COMM REPORT RECOMMENDS:	If Extracted, WHAT IS BEFORE THE HOUSE NOW?	VOTE IN FAVOR	VOTE OPPOSED
ADOPT CIT's Report recommendation to NOT ADOPT original resolution 119 XYZ	CIT Report recommending TO NOT ADOPT original I-19 resolution XYZ	Vote "in favor" if you favor/agree with CIT Report (which says to Not Adopt original-I19 resolution XYZ)	Vote "opposed" if you oppose/disagree with CIT Report (which says to Not Adopt original I-19 resolution) & You Want to Consider the original 119 resolutionXYZ

Additional Resources

The [New Delegate Orientation Recording](#) is on the Interim Meeting Website at URL below. Here you can find additional information on procedures and your role as a delegate.



Also, the *MMS Procedures of the HOD* are available at www.massmed.org/policies